

January 8, 1955

Professor Otto Loewi  
Department of Pharmacology  
New York University  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Professor Loewi:

Do you remember our discussion last summer about the source of the phrase that a scientific discovery had the same use as a baby? -- whether this was due to Franklin or Faraday? I have not been able to trace the original sources, and to tell the truth our own University Library is astonishingly blank on this type of material, but I promised to write to you about it.

I should have known better than to quarrel with you, but perhaps we are both right. At any rate, Vallery-Radot (Life of Pasteur) attributes such a saying to Franklin, while Gregory (,R.A.; 1916, Discovery ,or the spirit and service of science) mentions Faraday as well. We do not have either Tyndall's or Gladstone's Life of Faraday (to my astonishment) which might give more detail.

Thank you very much for the reprint (and frontispiece photograph) that I asked for. I am shortly going to reciprocate with a brief article from a volume pretentiously called "Horizons and Perspectives in Microbiology". The article displays only the limited perspective [on genetics and microbiology) that someone of my years can hope for.

I hope we shall have a chance to new these discussions again at Woods Hole.

With belated but best wishes for the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg